

NEAT Connection to a Network Backend Database



United States Department of Energy
Weatherization Assistance Program

Weatherization Assistant

Version 8.2.4.2

12/29/2004



National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT)

Developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory

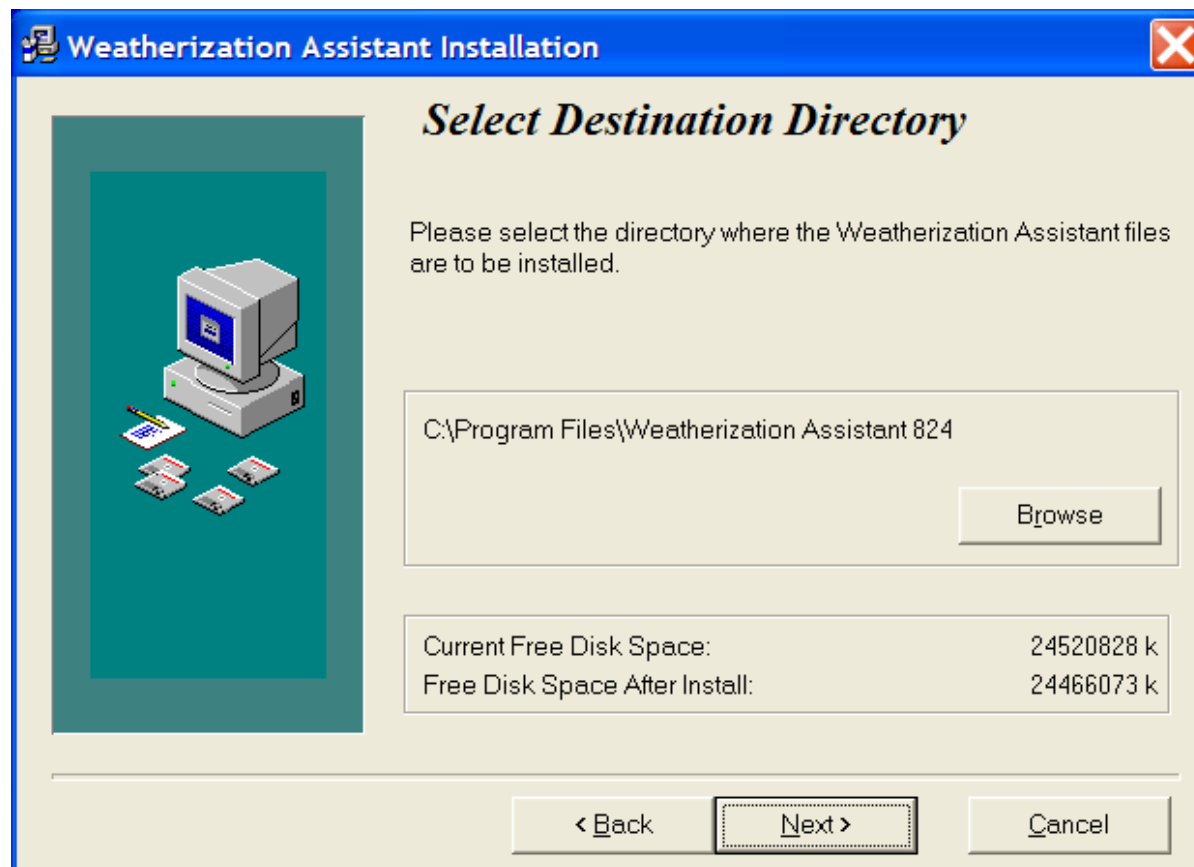


Manufactured Home Energy Audit (MHEA)

Developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

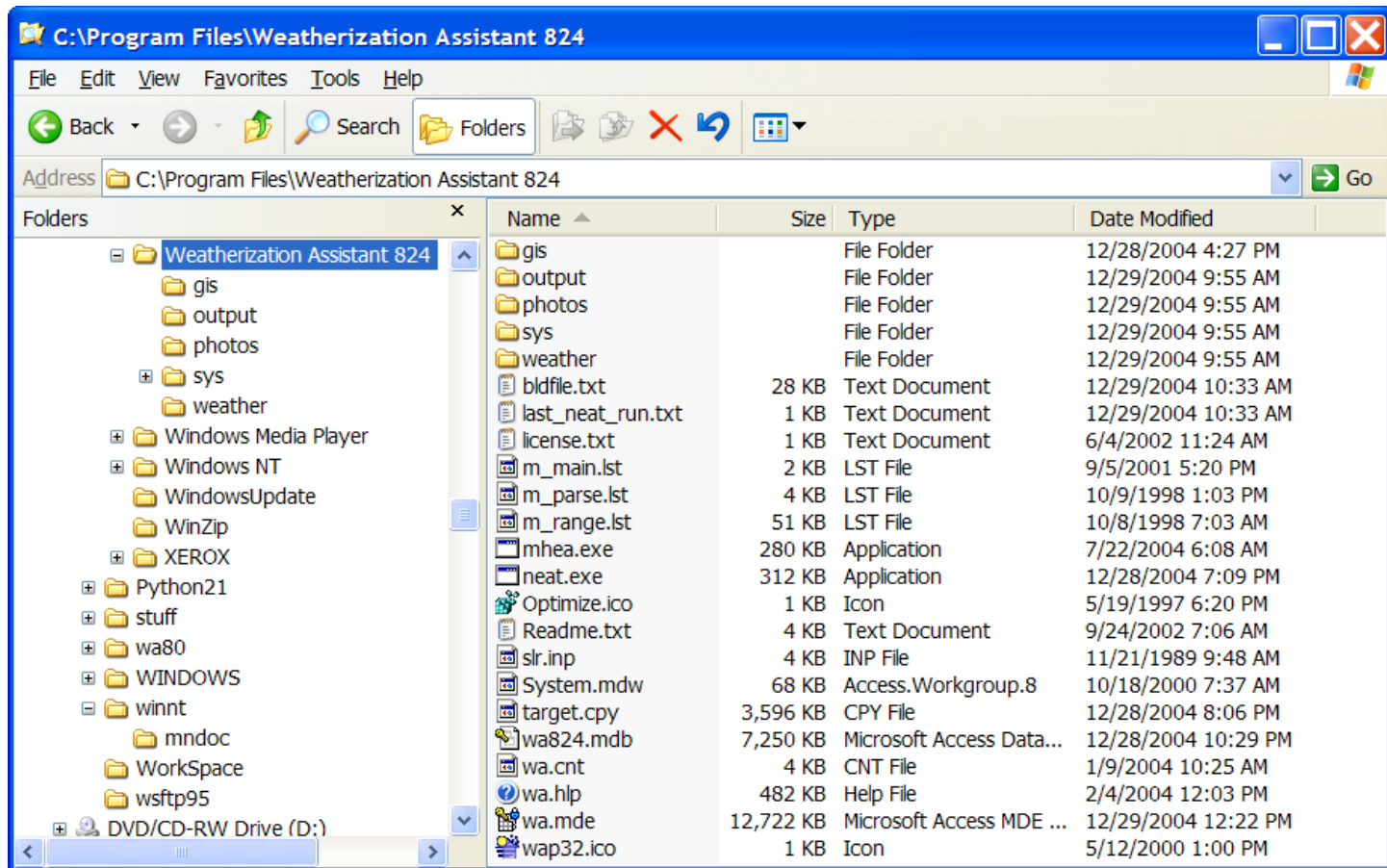
NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

The default installation of NEAT places all of the required files in a folder on the local computer. In the example installation of version 8.2.4.2 of NEAT described previously, the screen below was shown, indicating the default location to which the software was installed. The default folder location is “C:\Program Files\Weatherization Assistant 824”.



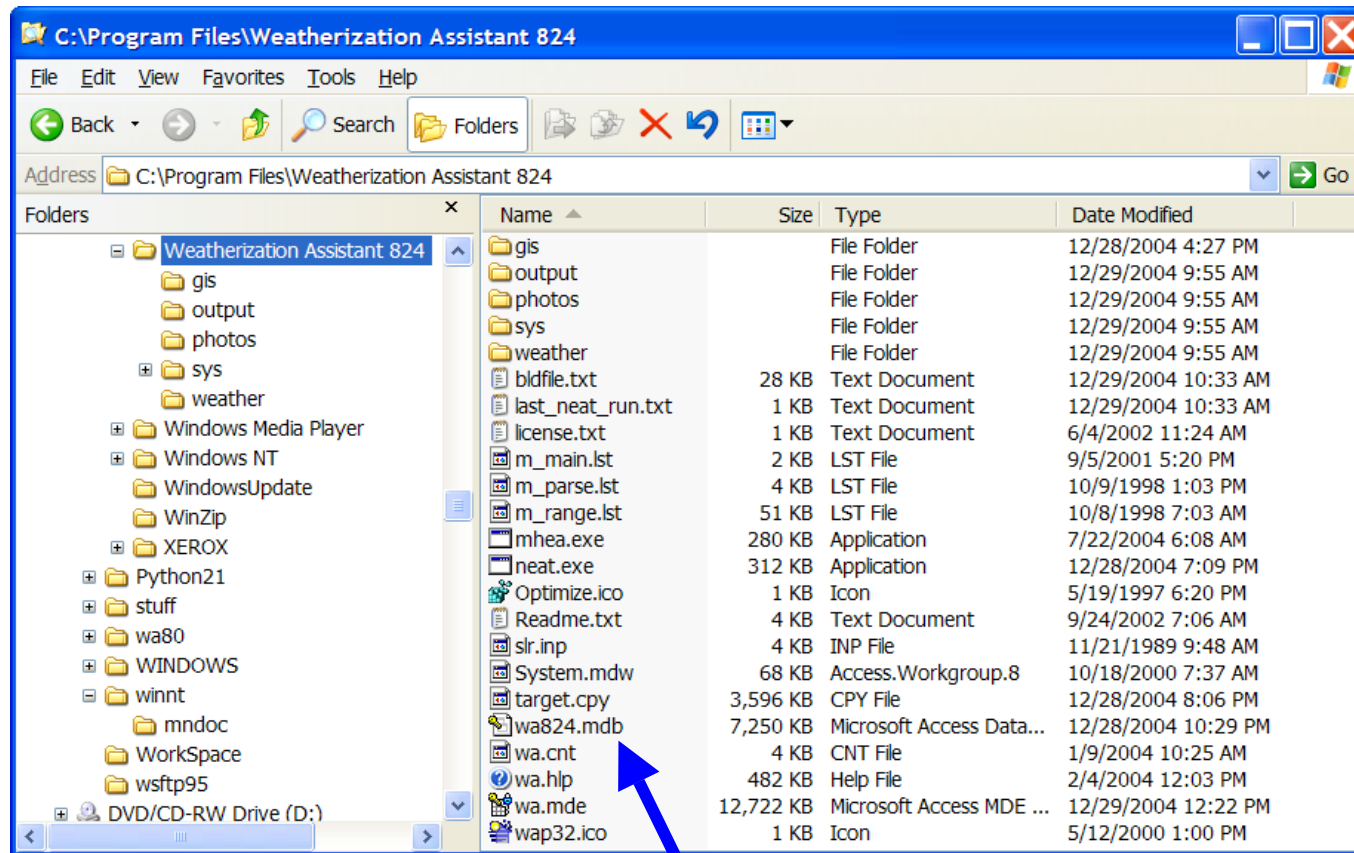
NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

A screen shot of Windows Explorer shows the result of a default installation of NEAT version 8.2.4.2. Selecting the Weatherization Assistant 824 folder on the left side shows the various folders and files that were installed on the right side.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

In this example, there is a file named “wa824.mdb” in the folder “C:\Program Files\Weatherization Assistant 824”. This is the file which stores all of the agency’s data that is accessed by the NEAT software.

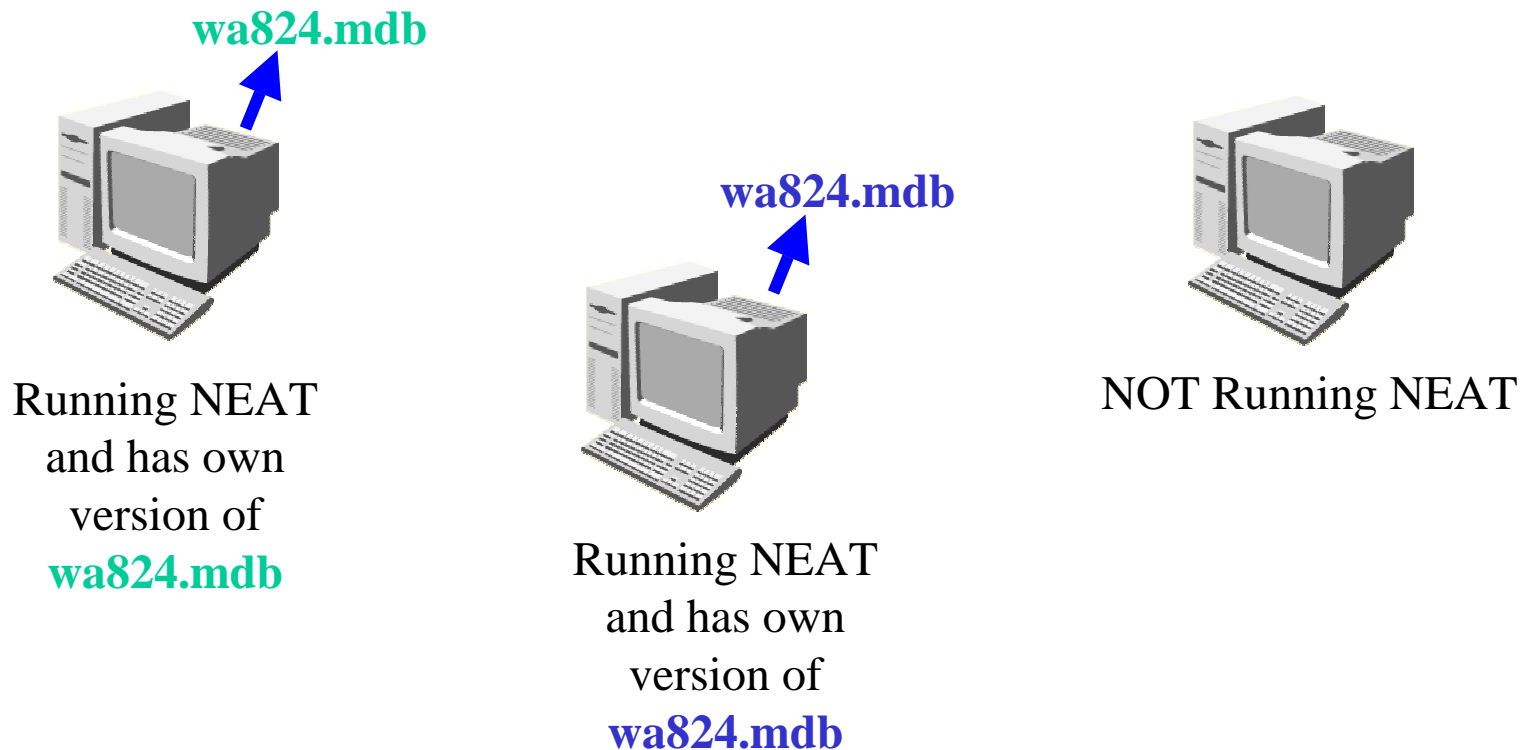


File “wa824.mdb” contains agency’s NEAT data.

NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Non-networked system

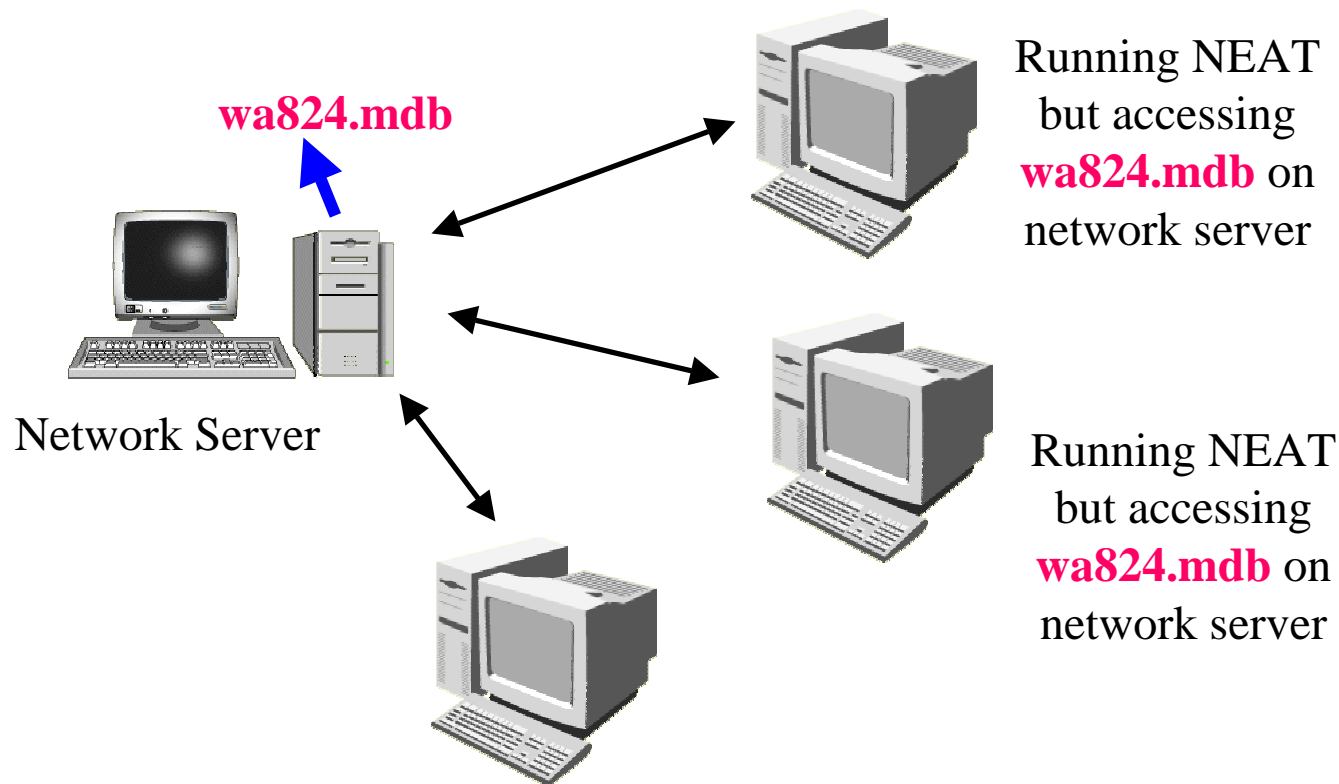
If an agency operates with one or more separate computers and no network system, then all of the work done using NEAT on each computer would be stored in that computer's own specific copy of the “wa824.mdb” file. No computer running NEAT would be able to directly access the data on a different computer running its own copy of NEAT. A simple schematic of this layout is shown below.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Networked system

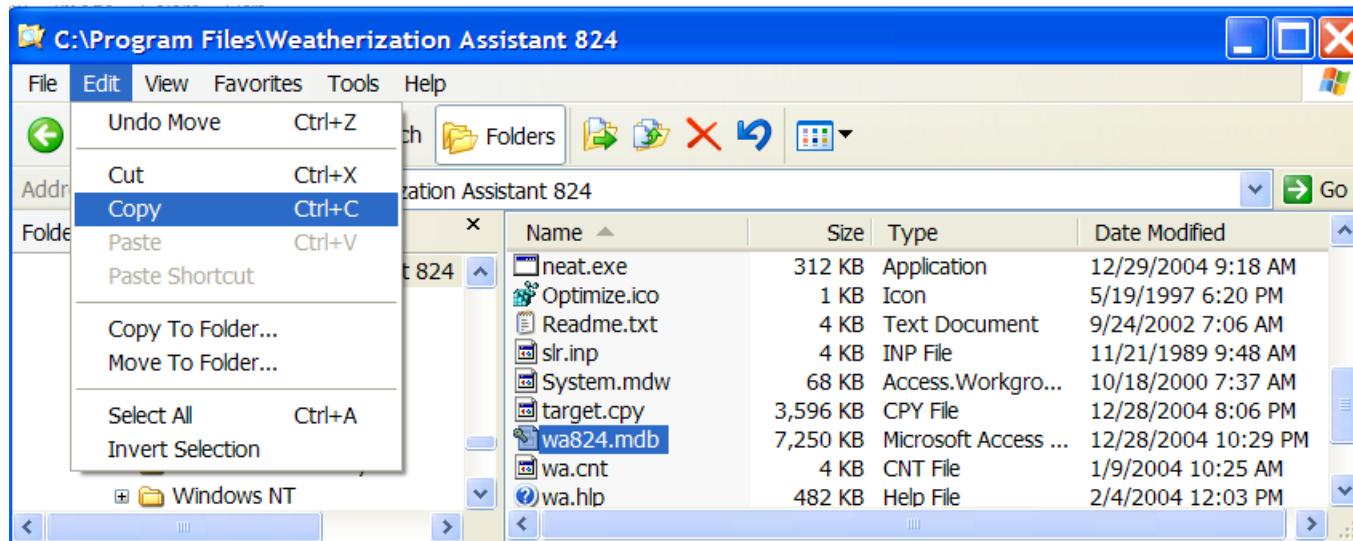
If an agency operates with one or more computers on a network system, then the wa824.mdb file can be stored on the network server machine, and each of the computers that is running NEAT can access that common data file on the network. This allows the data to be shared by all of the machines running their own copies of the NEAT software.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Copy the backend database file from the default folder

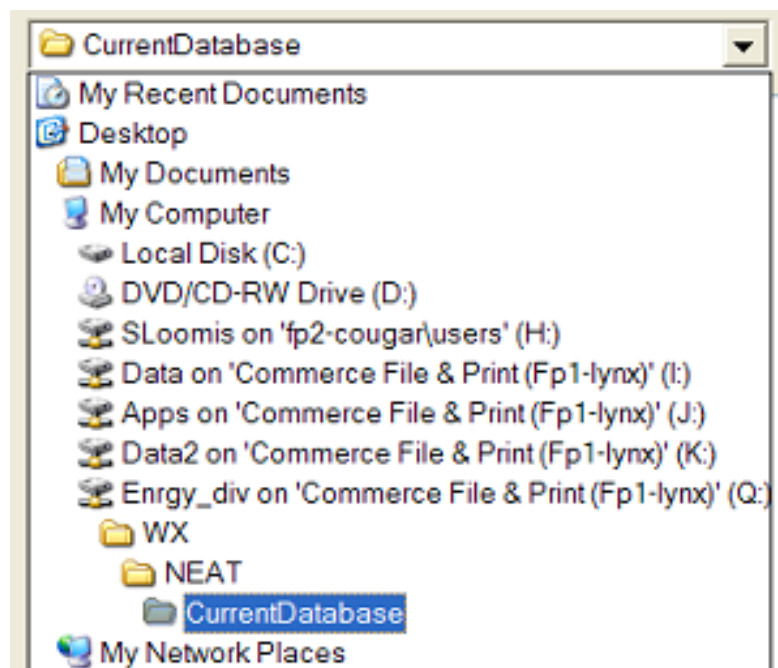
In order for the computers on a network to share a backend database, a copy of the database file needs to be placed on the network server. In the current example, this can be done by copying (see below) the database file named “wa824.mdb” from the default installation folder (“C:\Program Files\Weatherization Assistant 824”) to a location on the network server where it can be accessed by all of the separate computers that will be running the NEAT software.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Identify the network path for storing the backend database

The backend database file needs to get copied to a network location from where it will be accessed by other computers. The screen below shows an example network folder on the Q: drive identified by the path “Q:\WX\NEAT\CurrentDatabase”.

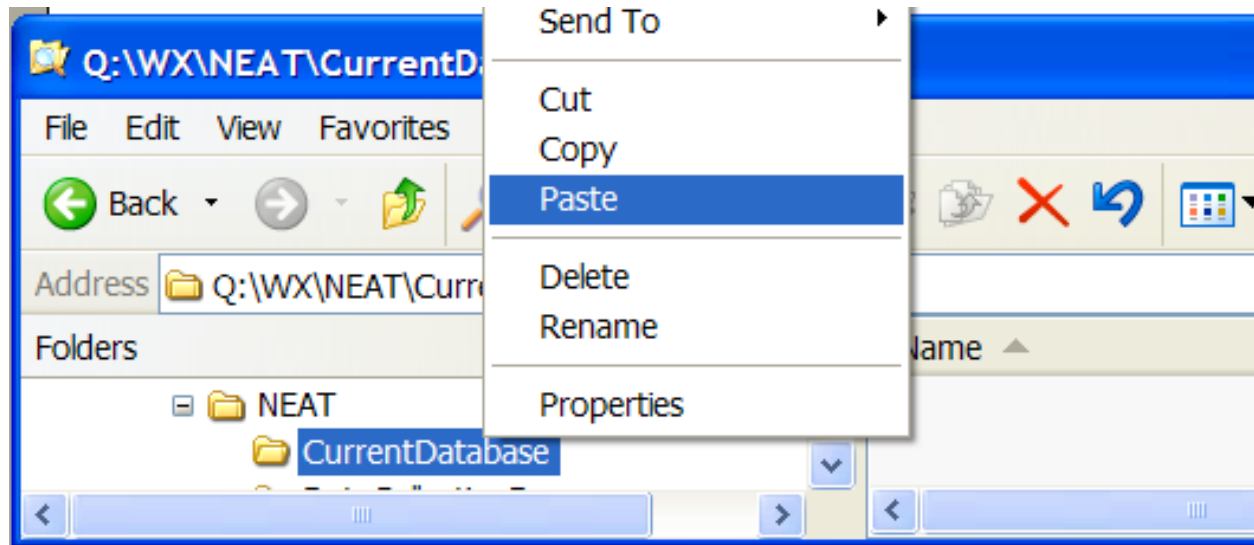


(The specific network drive and folder at your agency can use any logical naming convention, and will be set up by a person at your agency who has rights to perform network administration.)

NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Paste the backend database to the network location

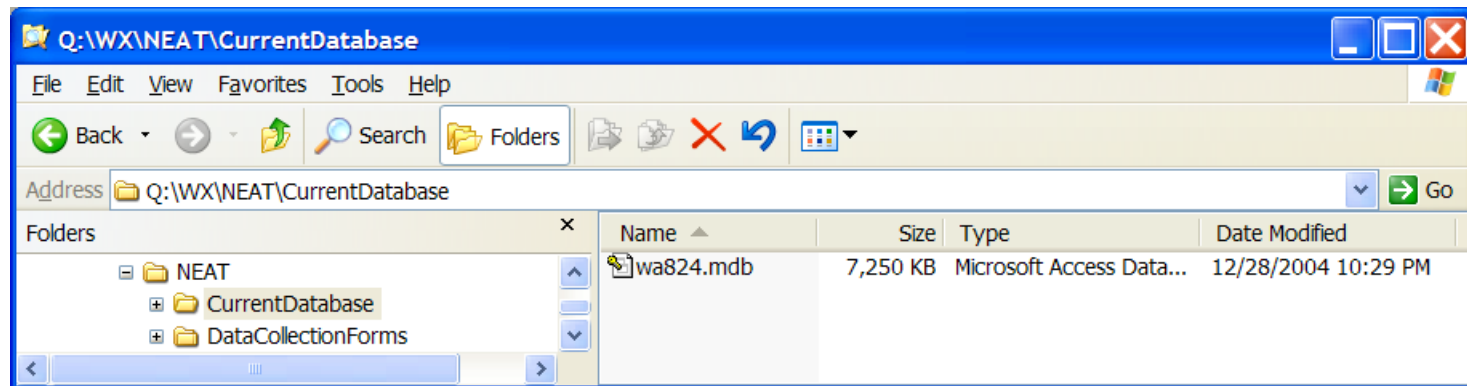
Paste the backend database named “wa824.mdb” to the example network location “Q:\WX\NEAT\CurrentDatabase”, as shown below.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Paste the backend database to the network location

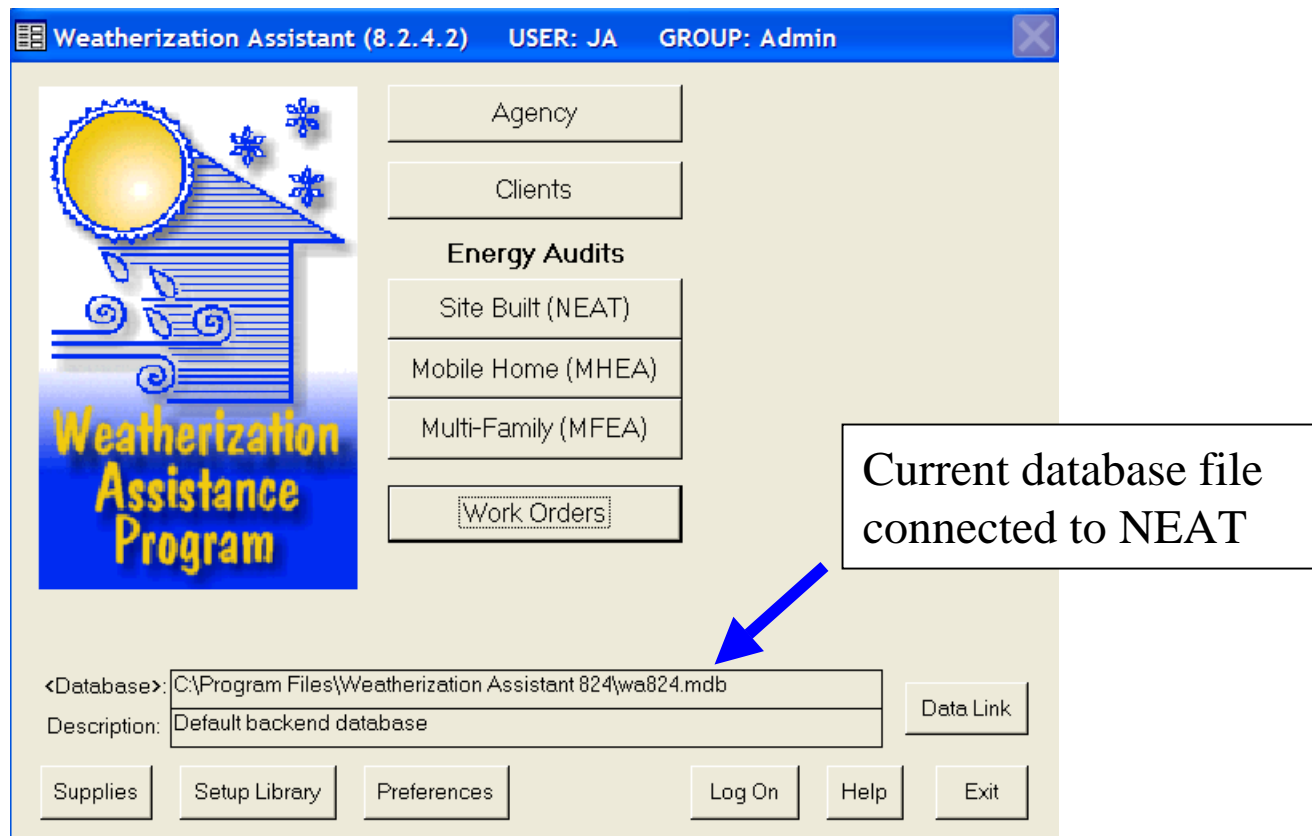
In this example, the backend database file “wa824.mdb” is now stored on the network in the folder “Q:\WX\NEAT\CurrentDatabase”.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

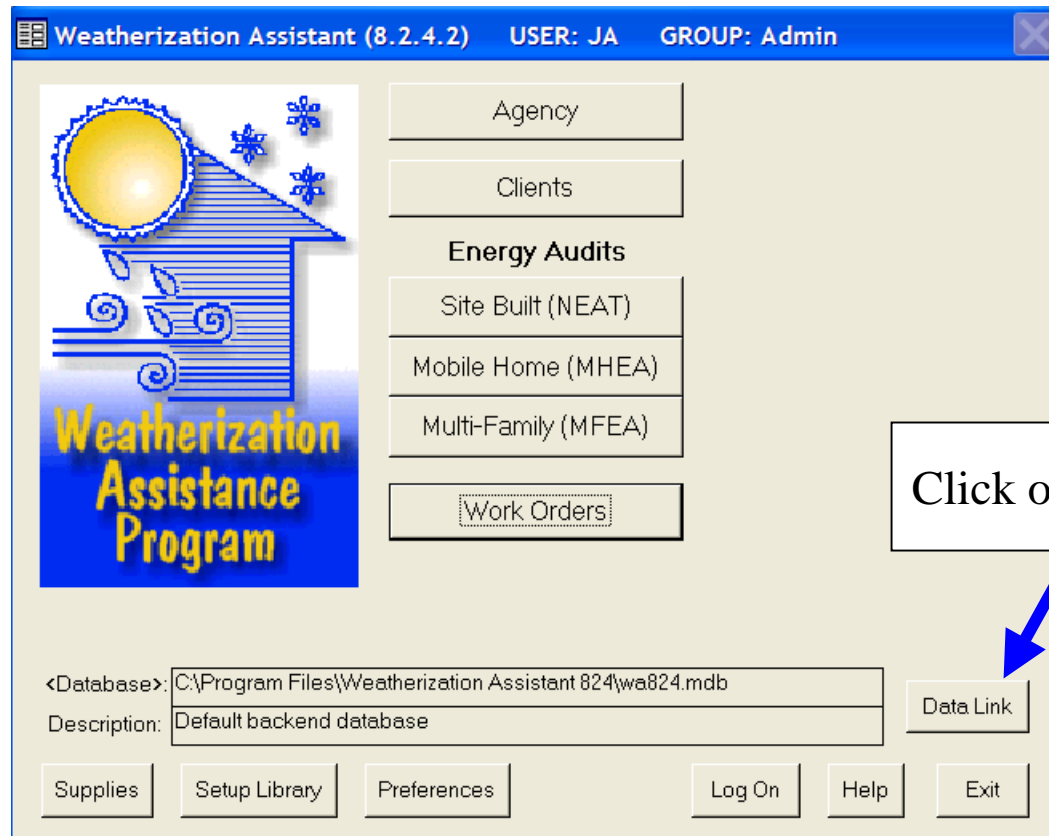
- (1) Log in to NEAT on a computer connected to the network. The backend database that NEAT is currently connected to is shown on the main screen.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

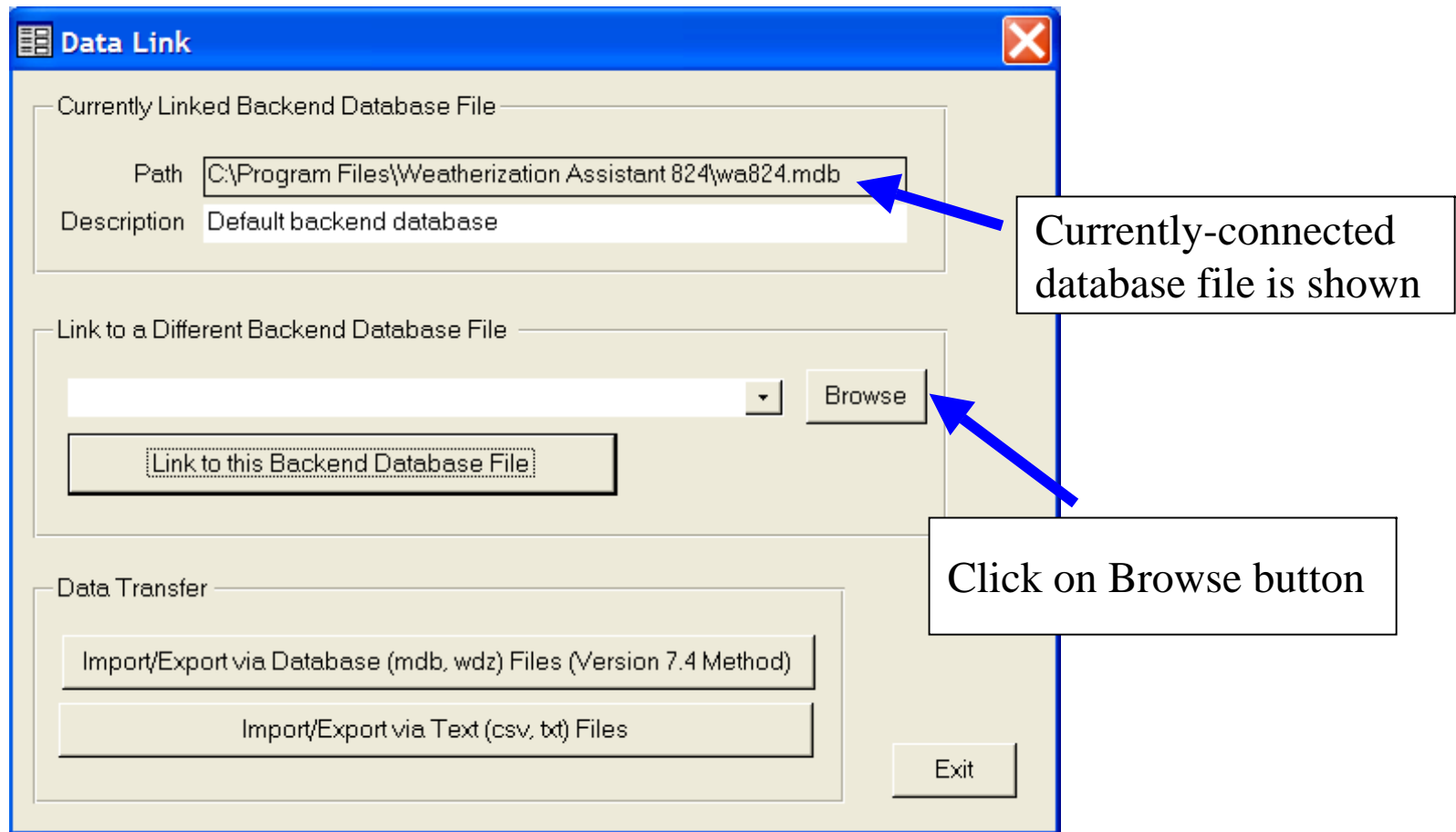
- (2) Run the DataLink process to select the backend database on the network which NEAT will connect to.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

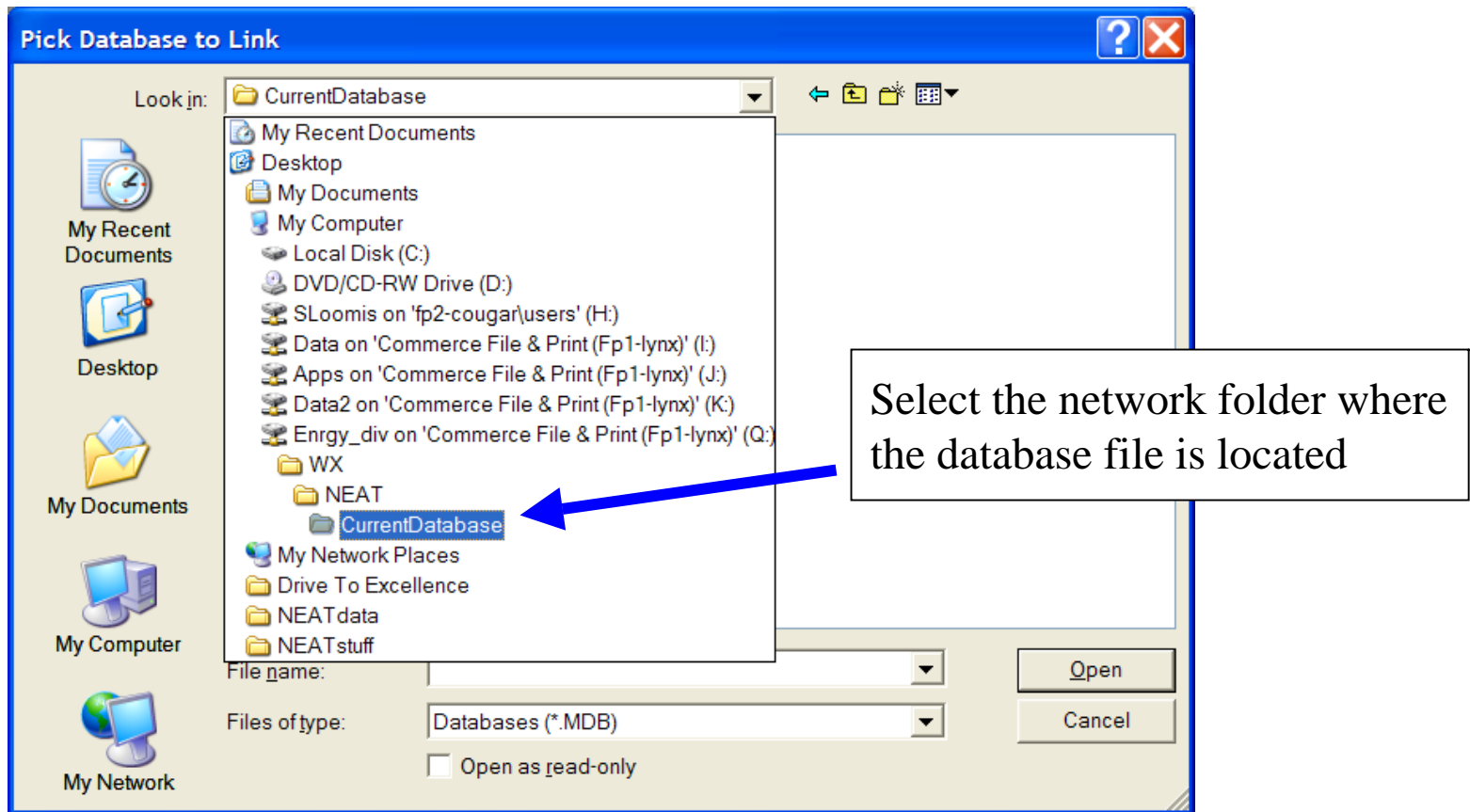
(3) Select Browse in the section labeled “Link to a Different Backend Database File”. This will permit selection of the NEAT database file on the network.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

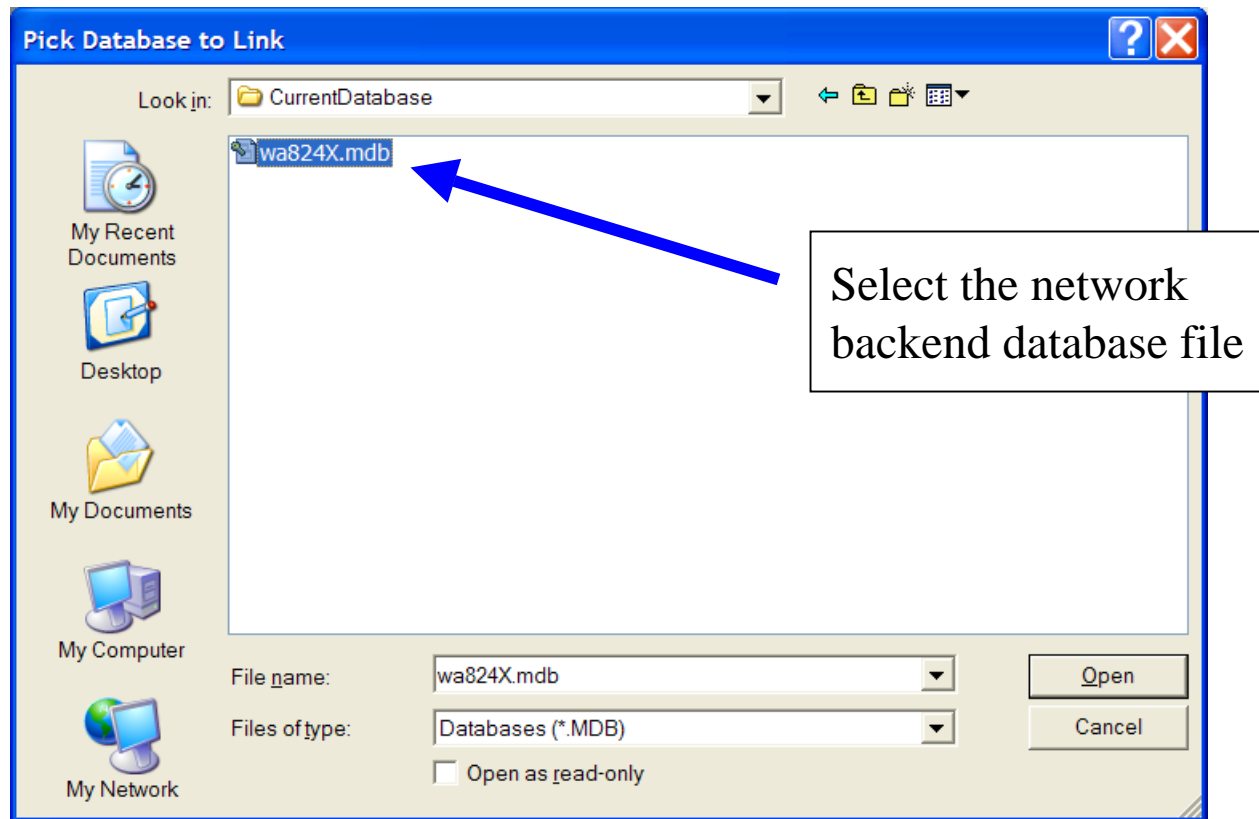
(4) Navigate to the drive and folder on the network that contains the backend database file (“wa824.mdb” in this example) that was previously copied from the original default location.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

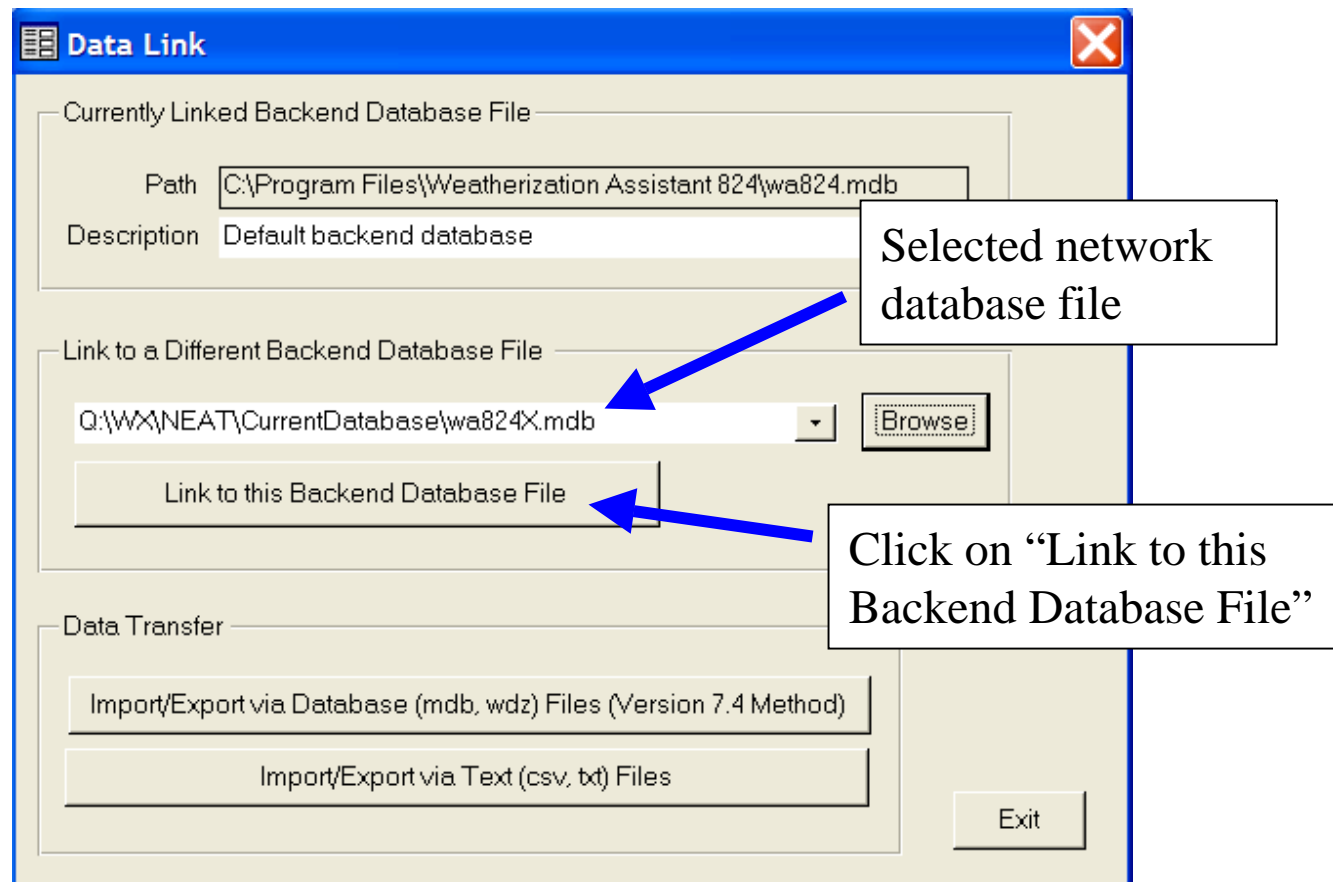
(5) Select the network backend database file. In this example, after the file was copied to the network, it was renamed to “wa824X.mdb” to help identify the network version of the file.



NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

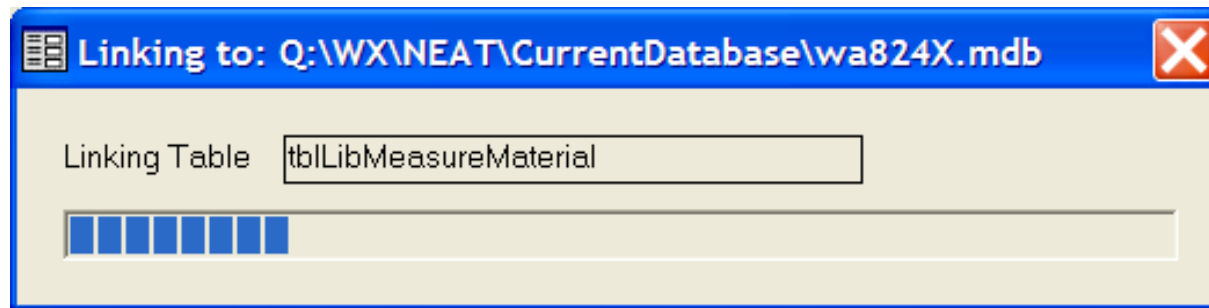
(6) The selected network backend database file will be shown in the drop-down list field. NEAT needs to be linked to this file by pressing the “Link to this Backend Database File” button.



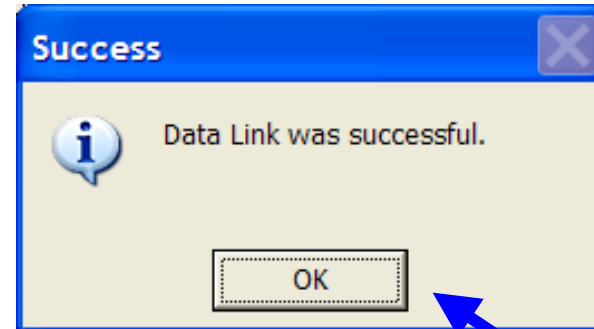
NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

This screen will show the progress of the process of linking NEAT to the network backend database tables.



When the database linking process is completed the screen to the right will be shown.

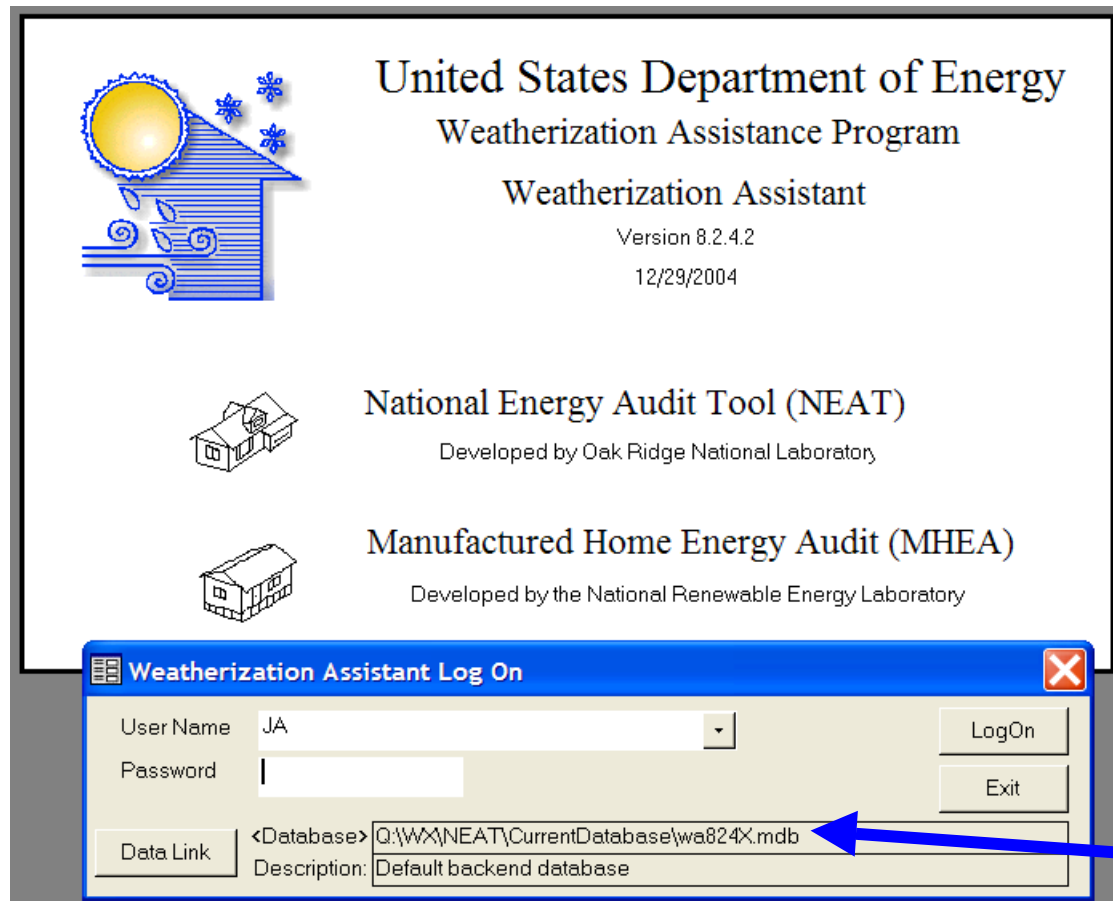


Click on OK

NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

(7) After the process of linking to the new database is complete, NEAT will restart. The new linked database will be shown in the log on screen.



Network database
file is shown

NEAT Connection to Network Backend Database

Change the reference to the backend database on each computer

After logging in, the new linked backend database on the network will be shown on the main form. Steps (1) through (7) in this document should be followed for all computers running NEAT, so that they can share the backend database on the network.

